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Haliburton to be the only ER in County

VIVIAN COLLINGS & EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff

The Minden emergency room doors will be closing permanently on June 1, 2023.

As of that date, all emergency services will be operating out of the Haliburton Hospital. "This is really related to our health human resource crisis," said Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS). "It is a global health human resource crisis, it's been ongoing for quite some time, and it has meant a shortage of both nursing and medical staff."

Plummer emphasized that this closure is based solely on staffing rather than funding; recruitment is the persistent struggle looming over most rural communities.

She said that throughout this crisis, it's been incredibly difficult to maintain both emergency facilities in the county. "In order to preserve health services and continue to offer high quality health services in this community, we need to consider the well-being of our staff," Plummer shared in a media press conference.

Plummer noted that by creating a space where staff feel supported, she believes that the environment will entice others to join the HHHS team.

While shutting down the emergency location in Minden, HHHS staff demands will be alleviated, but not entirely solved. "Even with this change, we are going to need to continue focusing on hiring new staff," she said, "we will still be recruiting for nurses and other physicians as well."

Plummer acknowledged that this major

shift will be a difficult transition period for the residents of Minden Hills who rely on the emergency department facility, noting that the decision to close was difficult. "We've been talking about this and looking at options for quite some time," she said, "but this was the decision that we needed to make in order to continue to provide health services in the county and to make sure everyone in the county has access to those services."

Plummer described the amalgamated emergency facility as significantly more "robust", and highlighted that the combined staffing would suit the growing needs of the county as a whole.

During the press conference, it was noted that the Minden emergency room actually has a higher intake than that of Haliburton. Plummer clarified that while the numbers may be higher, an emergency department must be attached to in-patient beds. Currently there are 15 in-patient beds at the Haliburton Hospital.

HHHS dove into the feasibility of adding an in-patient component to the Minden Hospital, yet identified that it would take significant renovations and finances, and would entail a lengthy approval process that would likely take years to complete.

Plummer also noted that even if the renovations did take place, they would likely not be able to match what Haliburton currently has for in-patient support.

Beyond the in-patient beds, Plummer was transparent in stating that the Haliburton emergency facility is significantly more central to the county as a whole, which aided in the decision to keep the Haliburton ER doors open.

see HHHS page 2



A glorious night

Canadian folk duo The Small Glories wowed a large crowd at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton Saturday night, stomping out original and cover tunes. Cara Luft and JD Edwards, from Winnipeg, made the stop in Haliburton as part of The Small Glories North American tour. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo

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HHHS staff hope amalgamation will help with recruitment

from page 1

To accommodate the incoming emergency room volume from Minden emerge, the Haliburton facility will be making some minor alterations to make “more efficient use of the space that we do have, without any major capital investment needed, and no ministry approval needed” said Plummer.

These modifications would include waiting room space, parking, and alterations for patient-incoming flow.

With closing one facility down, it was noted that the Haliburton emerg would be facing significant growth in volume to their site. Yet Plummer reiterated once again that the primary incentive for the closure lies solely with staffing. “If you add up all the minimum staffing requirements that are needed at the two individual sites, it is more than we need to manage the volume that we have,” she said. “But, it’s the staff we need to meet minimum staffing requirements. It is going to mean that we don’t need as many people overall to fill the gaps.”

Yet, even with this conglomeration of the sites, Plummer shared that the facility would require at least five to six additional nurses to get their team up to par.

In terms of the Minden site, Plummer did not have a straightforward answer as to what would happen with the freshly-emptied emergency room. “We are looking at a variety of different options,” said Plummer. “We certainly haven’t landed on anything yet, but there’s a lot of possibilities and we’re going to explore those possibilities.”

Dr. Norm Bottum is the acting chief of staff for HHHS. He noted that while the news may be surprising to some, the act of consolidating health services isn’t something new to the region. “If we go back to the beginning of the Haliburton Health Services, it was actually started as a result of St. Joe’s and Peterborough Civic Hospital amalgamating, giving us the opportunity to start our own services,” he said.

Bottum clarified that this amalgamation gave Peterborough the opportunity to expand their services when all staff were working from the same site, and the facility became an appealing destination for interested physicians.

He noted that the board has worked incredibly hard to keep both the Haliburton and the Minden sites open, but with the ongoing staffing shortages, emergency departments seem to be shutting down across Ontario. “Things have gotten worse over the last year rather than better, so I think the hospital has been basically backed into a corner to make this decision, but in my mind, it’s actually something we anticipated would happen a lot sooner.”

Bottum said he believes the amalgamation of emergency rooms will help with recruitment of much-needed staff. A “progressive medical community” with new equipment and the potential for mentoring will be a lure to new doctors.

“Having a consolidated emergency department with hopefully improved staffing and maybe opportuni-



Haliburton Highlands Health Services have made the decision to permanently close the Minden emergency room on June 1, making Haliburton the County's only ER. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

ties for improved equipment ... so especially for junior doctors to actually be able to work a day shift alongside another emerg doc, there’s no rule that says you can only have one emerg doc, and lots of other communities have two,” Bottum said.

He added that a struggling medical community likely pushes new doctors to find employment elsewhere. Many doctors are looking for a more active emergency department.

“Having a higher-volume emergency department would be very helpful in retraining,” Bottum said.

Plummer addressed HHHS’ anticipated \$3 million deficit for this year and said although it will reduce their need to hire agency nurses, money was not a factor in the decision to close Minden emerg. Staff well-being and ensuring efficient ER operations are their main priorities.

HHHS is hoping for a smooth transition, having anticipated the closure of either the Minden or Haliburton ER for the past 18 months.

“We’ve done an awful lot of work to prepare for even potential temporary closures of an emergency department. So, lots of planning has already taken place to look at what would need to happen if one emerg was closed while the other stayed open,” said Plummer.

When asked about the limited parking at the Haliburton hospital, Plummer said, “We’re looking at alternatives there, as well.” They plan to have ample signage at

the Minden emerg to inform visitors of the change. They will also have a staff member on site initially to redirect anyone attempting to visit the Minden emergency room once it has closed.

“There’s going to be a shift in our communication focus to making sure that the community at large is very, very well aware of this change and the date and what to expect, so that come June 1, our hope is that everybody is very, very well-aware,” Plummer said.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic isn’t necessarily to blame for the closure, it didn’t help already-present issues, said Plummer.

“Certainly the COVID pandemic did exacerbate our resource challenges. It’s historically been a challenge to recruit, it’s not unique to Haliburton, it’s a challenge to recruit health professionals to rural communities in the province, and not limited to even the province.”

She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic caused some staff members to leave health care altogether.

Haliburton County Paramedic Services were taken into consideration when deciding which emergency room to keep open.

“Some ambulances now, instead of coming to Minden, are going to be going to Bracebridge and Lindsay,” Bottum said, while the rest in the county will head to Haliburton.

Scott and Schmale weigh in on Minden ER closure

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

MPP Laurie Scott recognizes that the decision to close the Minden emerg effective June 1 is difficult news to process. “Minden is rightfully upset about it,” she told the *Echo*, “it is a big thing.”

With a background in the medical field, Scott shared that while she feels the shock of the closure as it reverberated around the community, she also understands the reasoning behind the decision. “It really is a national and global shortage of healthcare providers,” she said.

She alluded to the fact that filling hospitals with appropriate staffing isn’t something that happens instantaneously, and while she believes the wheels are in motion to get staffing up to par, there are a series of hurdles in the way, such as training and housing. “We are trying to break down these barriers,” she told the *Echo*, “but that’s not something that happens overnight.”

Scott shared that she is adamantly pushing for the opportunity for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) to acquire the CT scan machine for the Haliburton ER facility. She believes that by adding this new component to the hospital, it will create a more robust facility, which will continue to draw practicing medical staff to the region.

She also believes that by giving local pharmacists a deeper breadth of responsibilities, it could mitigate the

wait times that many are concerned about with the amalgamation of the hospitals in the area. “We are building things on a bigger scale,” Scott said, “so now, pharmacists can treat the most common ailments.”

Scott added that while the decision is a tough one and she feels for the community of Minden, there are opportunities presented with the hand that’s been dealt. “It’s a tough decision that they had to make, but right now, they just can’t safely staff two emergency rooms.” She went on to say that she believes that now is a time to focus on the positive, and work to strengthen the Haliburton facility. “We’re all trying to work together as a region for healthcare.”

MP Jamie Schmale echoed many of Scott’s sentiments. “Obviously this was a very difficult decision for the board to make,” he told the *Echo*, “but even harder for the community to grasp very shortly.”

Schmale noted that growing up in Bobcaygeon, he himself has utilized the services of the Minden emerg more than once. “I really do understand what this loss means to the community,” he said.

He shared that he understands the challenges the hospital has had with staffing, but believes this issue is tied to a series of larger local concerns; namely, housing. “Even if we can attract people to work here, they just can’t find a place to live.” He went on to say - based on his conversations with HHHS - that he understands this

see CONCERN page 3



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Top doc says opioid crisis hits region hard

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge Health Unit was in the top half of all provincial units significantly affected by the opioid crisis before the COVID-19 pandemic.

And opioid overdose deaths have increased during the pandemic, said Dr. Natalie Bocking, the health unit's chief medical officer and CEO.

She presented information to health board members April 20 that demonstrated the impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on opioid recreational user deaths.

The effects of the drug crisis fluctuates over time, she said.

"We do have data that in 2022 ... the rate in HKPR actually increased higher, and we were in the top 10 of health units in terms of our experience with opioid overdose deaths," Bocking said.

"We are impacted, perhaps not equally as some other health units, but absolutely impacted by this provincial crisis."

Most recently, the HKPR health unit issued an opioid overdose alert for the region April 14. An increase was reported in City of Kawartha Lakes and in Northumberland County over the preceding three days.

"The increase in overdoses this week is troubling. We are issuing an opioid overdose alert to warn the community to take immediate precautions," Dorothea Service, the units' harm reduction program manager, said at the time.

"We know that the drug supply in Ontario is contaminated with highly

potent opioids, benzodiazepines, and xylazine, that may impact the current drug poisoning crisis in our area."

What's disturbing is that xylazine is a veterinary sedative. What's more disturbing is that naloxone doesn't reverse the effects of those substances.

Bocking said hospital visits by people with signs of opioid overdose and the number of overdose deaths began to increase in the region in 2018.

"The number of (visits) to Emergency Departments for overdose related presentations has increased dramatically," she said.

For Haliburton County, hospitals saw increased visits between 2018 with seven ER visits to 2022 when there were 25 visits. The most significant jump happened mid-pandemic with 27 visits in 2021.

So far this year, there's been one ER visit by somebody presenting signs of opioid overdose symptoms.

Actually, according to data Bocking presented April 20, hospital visits increased in the health unit's region as a whole the most in 2021.

"We know the pandemic has made this crisis worse," Bocking said. "There were more deaths related to opioid overdose throughout the pandemic."

"But we know that prior to the pandemic we were still seeing a higher number of Emergency Department visits as well."

The health unit has a needle exchange program, it provides clean needles, and other sterile equipment for inhalation and the other means by which people use substances.

The number of needles that has been distributed by the health unit has remained relatively stable over about the

last two years. But the supplies that've been given for inhalation have dramatically increased, she said.

"This is a trend that's also been seen

provincially," Bocking said. "The use of substances by inhalation is contributing more and more to deaths from overdoses."

Concern over closure before summer

from page 2

to be one of the largest factors that has led to the decision around the closure.

The other major issue he addressed are the requirements needed to practice medicine in the province. "There are over 20,000 foreign nurses in this country, waiting for answers, and this is a major opportunity that is being missed right now."

Schmale believes that the college of physicians and nurses are currently not moving fast enough, and a system should

be set up to provide these qualified medical professionals with the accreditations to practice in Ontario. "This is unacceptable," he shared with the *Echo*, "especially, because now we are closing emergency rooms because of staffing."

He shared that until some of these "big picture" items are addressed, the future of healthcare in the community is uncertain, but he is particularly concerned about the closure of emerg on the cusp of a major tourism season. "Nobody feels good about this decision," he said.

Weapons complaint investigated

On April 4, at 1:22 p.m. members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a weapons complaint at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Officers quickly attended the location and initiated an investigation. As a precaution, a shelter in place order was issued by the school. Officers did not locate a weapon at the school. There were no injuries reported to police as a result

of this incident. The investigation into this incident is continuing.

Haliburton Highlands OPP is requesting anyone with information about this incident or any other unlawful activity to call 1-888-310-1122 or 705 286-1431. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit a secure web-tip at www.khcrimestoppers.com/ where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward.

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Public health unit touts importance of vaccines

JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Less than half of the students required to update their vaccine status have complied with public health requests. Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health and CEO at Halibur-

ton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit, described to board members April 20 the effort to get more students vaccinated. Second letters were issued in March to guardians of students not in compliance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act. Bocking said the first letter went out to

about 3,600 students and guardians. That yielded about a 48 per cent compliance rate. "People actually updating their records or receiving their vaccinations that were overdue," she said. "That's a better return rate than in previous years. "So that's great, but that still meant there were about 1,800 letters that were sent out at the end of March." The public health unit doesn't plan to suspend students for non-compliance this year, she said. "Some health units have," she said. "Some health units haven't." They opted to try to get students from more school grades than usual to catch up with the necessary vaccines. So they sent the second letters as a further reminder. "But we certainly intend to do full enforcement starting next year," Bocking said. On another vaccination front, the doctor said fewer people have taken advantage of the latest COVID-19 booster jab. There's a different dynamic to COVID-19 than during the rest of the pandemic where high peaks of infections were experienced. Bocking said infections now are of a steady higher rate than what they'd like to see. "The ups and downs are not as much, which also means the downs are not as much," she said. "So there continues to be low to moderate hospital admissions in the community." As many as 18 deaths and 74 hospital admissions in the region that were attributed to the coronavirus so far in 2023. "This is still not influenza that we're

talking about," Bocking said. "It's still not a benign cold, but I think we're as a society learning to manage in a way that we can move forward and try and minimize the harms associated with the virus." The province has launched the spring COVID-19 booster vaccine campaign. But, she said, there hasn't been much fanfare or media attention this go-around. She acknowledged that the health unit hasn't taken out as many newspaper and radio advertisements as previous campaigns. "It is a targeted booster campaign for those at highest risk," she said. "So individuals over the age of 65, individuals with other medical conditions that put them at higher risk of a severe illness." The region saw lackluster participation in the fall booster campaign, and there's been low participation in this spring outing. She anticipates a wider campaign in the fall that will make boosters available to people outside the over-65 age group. "But we don't have a crystal ball, so we'll have to wait until closer to that time to know for sure what the recommendations are based on how the virus continues to evolve," she said. The current vaccines target the omicron variants specifically. "The challenge with the omicron variants is they continue to evolve," Bocking said. "So they're not a perfect match. They're not as good as the influenza vaccine at being able to match the strain that's circulating, just because the COVID virus mutates so quickly."



Cleaning up for Earth Day
Madame Zahab's Grade 2 students cleaned up litter for Earth Day on Friday, April 21 at Stuart Baker Elementary School. /Submitted by Marie Zahab

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Region's top doc says summer camp inspections have started

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It may only be spring yet, but public health officials are looking ahead to summer environmental health concerns.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health and CEO at the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) Public Health Unit, said work has started to brace for the various summer season health concerns.

She told health board members April 20 that inspections of summer camps have started and preparations are being made for tick dragging in certain areas for Lyme disease. The health unit has also drawn attention to migrating birds and the potential spread of avian flu.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Public Health Agency of Canada confirmed April 4 that a domestic dog in Oshawa tested positive for highly

pathogenic avian influenza.

Bocking said a number of wild bird species, domestic chickens, and wild turkeys have been infected.

She said there hasn't been an infected domestic chickens in the HKPR region.

"But there's a number of other jurisdictions in Ontario that have," she said.

According to the release, the dog was found to have been infected with avian flu after chewing on a wild goose. The dog died after developing clinical signs.

Avian influenza, a type A influenza virus, is a contagious viral infection that can affect all species of birds and can sometimes infect mammals.

There's been a handful of human infections globally.

"But we know that the more a virus circulates, the more opportunity there is for it to mutate and potentially then become a strain that can infect humans more easily," Bocking said.



Springing into new opportunities

Fleming CREW Employment Centre hosted a Spring Job Fair on Wednesday, April 19 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton where attendees had the chance to meet over 35 employers in the county looking to hire for casual, full-time, and part-time positions. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



Visitors mingled with employers and businesses during Fleming CREW's Spring Job Fair.



Over 35 employers were present during the Spring Job Fair last week in Haliburton.



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• 705-457-1037 • Fax 705-457-3275
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DAVID ZILSTRA
Publisher and Ad Director, ext. 37,
david.zilstra@gmail.com
VIVIAN COLLINGS, Editor
ext. 39, vivian@haliburtonpress.com
JENNIFER MCEATHRON, Admin
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com
DEBBIE COMER, Circulation
debbie@haliburtonpress.com

JAMES MATTHEWS,
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter
james@haliburtonpress.com
EMILY STONEHOUSE, Reporter
ext. 38, emily@haliburtonpress.com
KAREN LONDON,
Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

STACEY POTATIVO, Production
BRAD LEBLANC, Production
LAURA SMITH, Sales
laura@haliburtonpress.com
PAUL BANELOPOULOS, Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com
INSIDE SALES
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Perspective

IT'S BEEN an emotional week for Haliburton County, for *everyone* in Haliburton County.

When tragedy strikes, we look for where fault lies.

My biggest fear is that we've become incredibly divided during this tumultuous time.

We're all very aware of our own human experience.

We know better than anyone how the closure of the Minden Emergency Room will impact ourselves and our family, but it might be worthwhile to gain perspective during one of the most impactful events to happen in our community as of late.

Empathy has never steered me wrong before when trying to digest overwhelming information, so here are some of the points of view to consider during this time.

There are plenty more that I'm sure I'm missing, but in no particular order, I'm thinking about the points of view of nurses and doctors, local residents, and Haliburton Highlands Health Services staff members.

HHHS stated staffing shortages, particularly of nurses and doctors, are the primary cause of the closure of Minden's ER. A problem that has only gotten worse. Numbers continue to go down. What are potential causes? We'll never know each person's reasoning unless we know their point of view.

It's a miracle both ERs have been able to stay open 24/7 this long considering hiring still needs to happen to allow Haliburton to function properly as the sole emerg.

I can only imagine what it's been like for those front line workers.

We need them desperately in hospitals, but we can't blame them for choosing to leave if that's what they see is best for themselves.

Aren't we all doing what's best for ourselves?

As for doctors and nurses that don't live here and don't desire to work in

the county, considering why that is from their perspective is important, as well.

Why might they steer clear of Haliburton County when looking for a place to take up permanent residency?

If they find work elsewhere and it works better for themselves and their families, we can't blame them for that, either.

I've been reading and hearing many stories from Minden residents; how living close to the local ER has saved a precious life.

Think about that perspective. If you have a medical condition and moved to Minden to be close to a hospital, that's a scary situation. An extra 20 minutes in an ambulance can mean life or death.

This also may put added pressure on EMS staff. It means they are responsible for patients for those extra minutes, too.

From the HHHS staff perspective who had to make this nearly impossible decision, they've seen the situation in our hospitals first-hand.

They spend each and every day dealing with staffing shortages.

They've highlighted their top priority is to focus on employee well-being within our health care services to ensure every patient receives the best care, but to also make sure their staff are cared for. We're all human, and everyone's health deserves the same attention.

They know and hear the outcries of the community, but they also see the internal situation and know what needs to happen to improve it.

I don't have the answers, and these are only a few points of view within this complex issue, but it's so important to humanize the situation.

I'd like to urge you to write letters to either myself or the *Minden Times* editor, emily@haliburtonpress.com, if you'd like to share your own thoughts or point of view.



vivian collings

Editorial



A Snapping turtle emerges from a long winter. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

Home

ALL BEINGS need a home. In the wisdom traditions, it is taught that we all have three homes that we need to love as much as we can.

The first home is our Earth. The earth is feeding us, and feeling all of our actions. As I sit to write this article, I am very aware that spring is slowly coming. I can see life returning in the buds on the trees, in the birds that are arriving daily and in the garlic, daffodils, leeks and other bulbs poking up.

Each of us has to contemplate the choices we make and if they come from love. Every small action adds up. A second home is our body. This vessel of love is a community of our muscles, bones, tendons, ligaments, organs, and fluids all held by our birth-day or "skin suit" that we are born in.

I remember in my yoga teacher training course many years ago the instructor said to us, "If this home wears out, where are you going to live?"

In other words, take good care of yourself, for Heaven's sake. You can buy a new car, but you can't buy a new body. And then there is the home where we live perhaps alone, with family or friends or pets.

We all need a place to love and feel safe, warm, relaxed, protected, healthy, strong, connected and secure. I cannot imagine what it would be like to not have a home or be able to afford one.

We all love our homes, and everyone deserves to have one. When Jim and I were in Tobermory last week, we hiked to a lake to see if the eagle

nest that we saw last year was still there.

We were excited to see that the nest was still there, and there was a female sitting on her eggs again. At one point, two more eagles flew in, one bringing her food and one hopped around on the branches.

We stood quietly for a long time just watching. Yesterday Jim and I did our annual bird box cleaning at Barnum Creek. We opened 10 boxes and found nests from chickadees, blue birds, some wasps and one had a squirrel's nest, we think.

Each box was a little home. A couple of weeks ago I attended a meeting hosted by the not-for-profit organization Places for People.

Their volunteer board of directors focus on creating and managing quality, affordable housing in Haliburton County so that their tenants can thrive. They currently own and manage 12 units and are planning to expand.

Housing is essential to the wellbeing of

our county. If we want to attract and keep people from all professions, if we want young people to stay or return, if we want to be a county that looks after each other and helps one another, we need affordable, and well managed housing.

I know my home is my refuge where I can rest, rejuvenate, look after myself and then go out into the world to contribute. Everyone deserves a refuge. There are so many ways to support housing in our county.

For more information about Places for People, see placesforpeople.ca.

Tales from
the great



lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

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points of view

The Life of Cake

NOT ALL that long ago, there was a book written about how long a pie lasts. Admittedly, I never read the *The Life of Pi*, mostly because I was annoyed by the spelling mistake on the cover. But it recently reminded me that there is not, as far as I can ascertain, a single book on the life of cake. This is especially odd since cake seems to be far more accessible to the public. Almost anyone can make a decent cake, but it takes a real good baker to create a nice pie.

If anyone is researching such a book, I can provide a few insights into the lifespan of cake. In our house, it is exactly one day.

Oh sure, we say that we are only going to have one piece each. Then, we say, "After that, we will pack it away and freeze it."

But, deep down, both Jenn and I know that we are only lying each other and to ourselves. No cake has ever seen the inside of our freezer. Not even the freezer cake types.

Bottom line: the life of a cake is 24 hours tops. That's why archaeologists have never found any evidence of one at any dig site. Or perhaps, they did, and just ate it.

Of course, there are exceptions to the rule. A kale cake might last as long as 46 years.

The point is when you discuss the life of a cake, I think it is important to understand the reasons why it can be so brief.

First and foremost, cake is a delicious comfort food.

Being a comfort food means you are the first thing that a person who needs comfort looks at – often several times a day. Worse still for cakes, it ranks high on the list in the hierarchy of comfort foods, right up there beside ice cream. Which is to say, given the choice between cake and, let's say, leftover meatloaf, most people needing comfort food will choose cake – followed by meatloaf, and then more cake. Unless it is kale cake. (Honestly, if a friend offers you kale cake, it is time to reconsider the friendship.)

The problem with delicious comfort foods such as cake is that after a while you realize that what once was a beautiful piece of culinary art, now looks like something a hungry bear found it in an open kitchen window. And you feel responsible for that.

Then you start to wonder why your willpower is so weak and why one slice wasn't good enough. After that, it occurs to you that there are people on this planet who have never, and will never, be so fortunate as to experience one slice of delicious cake, let alone three in one day. OK... four.

And, while you know, "let them eat cake", has been proven historically to be not the right thing to say, you can't help but mumble it anyhow. Yet even though you mean it genuinely and with absolute empathy and compassion, you cannot help but feel guilty.

It's called cake guilt and, it is at the heart of the problem.

Because the only thing cake guilt does is make you feel sad. And, when you are a sad, you need comfort. And, believe me, that doesn't bode well for a cake.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

This week's pic of the past takes us back a long, long way. The photo was taken following the opening of the old white bridge over the Drag River on what is now Maple Avenue in Haliburton. The engineers on the job when this bridge was constructed were W. Smith and Frank Barber. The old bridge has since been replaced. From left, William Laking, John Lucas, George Potts, Henry Brohm, Dr. Giles, David Gorrie, William Roberts, David Anderson. On the far right, Russell Reid, Alfred Sewell and Bruce Kellett. /From the *Echo* archives

letters to the editor

Where was the community consultation?

To the Editor,

As a life long resident of Haliburton who lives at the southern end of our County, I protest this decision.

Where was the community consultation?

As former owners of one of the longest established tourist establishments in the region, we know the value of the Minden Emergency Room to both countless numbers of guests and summer visitors, as well as thousands of seasonal and year-around residents.

As long time supporters, and donors to the HHHS, we are both saddened and outraged by the judgement, lack of consultation, and timing of those who are supposed to protect and serve the general well-being of the total Haliburton County community.

Your communication statement is mis-leading. Obviously, if Hyland Crest residents must travel

by ambulance to Haliburton village, it will NOT operate "as it always has". As well, the arrangements with the two current ER staffs, is not the same, and there will be huge associated costs that must be borne by local taxpayers.

Why the secrecy in facing up to the problems, and not allowing County and Municipal representatives, as well as ordinary citizens to have input? You have certainly given reason to question both the judgment and competency of your decision makers.

I doubt that in my three quarters of a century living here, and for three generations of my family providing employment to others and contributing to the County economy, I have ever seen such a reckless, ill-advised and non-consultive process and decision.

Russ and Dottie Wunker
Miners' Bay

Closure is unacceptable

To the editor,

Today I learned from an email dated yesterday that on June 1, the Minden Emergency Room will be closed. This is unacceptable in my mind!

I moved to Minden 20 years ago because it was a small quiet town, but it had its own medical facility in the hospital. This was very important to my family as we are aging and part of aging means we'll require more attention.

Over the past years, I have volunteered as a Big Brother, Kid Companion, Community Care Driver and with community support service for meal delivery and as a driver.

I have driven many seniors to their appointments at the hospital to their doctors or their dentist. The removal of Minden hospital will cause increased anxiety and costs for our elderly and less

fortunate societal members.

I have not seen or heard anything about an expansion to our emergency services people and equipment. Delivering to Haliburton from the Minden, Carnarvon and surrounding areas will obviously take longer and require additional equipment.

Who thought out this elimination of service. What public input was obtained?

I have supported the HHHS believing they were there to support all community residents. I am very disappointed by this decision and believe a great deal more input should have been sought out and public concerns taken into consideration.

Don Geall
Minden

More letters to the Editor on page 9

letters to the editor

Who's in charge? Who's minding the store?

To The Editor

Re: Grass Lake Development Sent Back to Council, Haliburton Echo, April 18

The Harburn Holdings application proposal for medium density housing on Peninsula Road is a massive development with the proposed creation of new lots on tiny and over capacity Grass Lake. Understandably, nearby residents and people who care about the environment are opposed to a proposal which seeks to shoehorn 88 condominium units, plus commercial businesses, into a narrow strip of land adjacent to one of the last remaining wetlands in the village of Haliburton.

A startling fact emerged from the April 12 County Council Special Meeting. The proponent revealed in his presentation that Dysart planning staff and a former County planner urged Harburn Holdings to apply for medium-density housing, rather than single residential units even though this zoning designation wasn't in conformity with the Official Plan, a land use document that is approved by an elected council. Assured by staff that their proposal was on the right track, Harburn Holdings undertook an Environmental Impact Study, a Hydrologic study among others, investing time and money.

Dysart and County planning staff seem

to have given their support to medium-density development on this site long before the public or politicians were even aware of this prospect, and long before key environmental concerns were raised. If Haliburton County Council were to reject this proposal or recommend major modifications, it's not unreasonable for anyone to assume that the proponent would immediately appeal the decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal and be justifiably irate.

Given this new information that emerged from the proponent himself during the April 12 meeting, you have to wonder why it appears our elected councillors are not in charge of development decisions, as they should be. Why bother to elect mayors and councillors if staff are making such key decisions?

Development pressures are going to continue with big players coming from out of town. As a community, we need to set out a comprehensive vision and enact policies and bylaws, and soon. It's imperative that there be real public oversight of the where, why, and how our county develops.

Carolyn Langdon, Don Ross, Catherine Swift, and Lynda Williams
on behalf of Friends of Grass Lake

CSWB plan aims to help county reach 'ideal state'

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

In a perfect world, Haliburton County wouldn't have housing shortages and homelessness, poverty, mental health issues, substance use and addiction, and a health care system in distress, but unfortunately, those are the key issues highlighted in our new Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan.

"We are all proud of where we live, but there are friends and neighbours struggling in our community due to some of the key factors that contribute to poor community safety and well-being," Sue Tiffin, the county's new CSWB Plan coordinator, said to county council on March 22.

The plan, a living document, aims to address those issues.

It is a tool to be used as guidance to work with the county's key service providers, measure progress, support individuals seeking information and services, and to keep engaging with the community to adapt and align with its needs.

Strategy Corp, a consulting service, was hired to take on the task.

"Their work included consulting with area service providers, other interested parties and members of the public on key risks and service gaps; analyzing community risk factors and identifying evidence-based responses and strategies to gaps and risks and integrating all feedback into a full draft plan," Tiffin said.

The Safer Ontario Act mandated each municipality in the province to adopt a CSWB Plan in 2019.

For Dysart et al, Highlands East, Minden Hills, and Algonquin Highlands, the authority to develop the plan was given to Haliburton County Council. Work on the CSWBP began in 2020.

"The goal of CSWB planning is to achieve the ideal state of a sustainable community where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, access to services and where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income and social and cultural expression," Tiffin said.

To achieve this "ideal" state, the plan provides framework for the alignment with key service providers and allowing for data collection to identify gaps and measure progress.

She dove into how incidents are typically handled.

Communities invest many resources into incident response such as policing, paramedic, and other emergency-driven services, but this is reactive and sometimes enforcement-dominated.

"In most cases, we can't rely on incident response alone to promote community safety and well-being," Tiffin said.

She said to council that communities should be focused on prevention, "Applying proactive strategies to known and identified risks that are likely to result in harm to individuals or communities if left unmitigated."

This means stopping incidents before they have a chance to need emergency intervention.

She showed a graphic of a river. While incident response pulls people out of the river, it doesn't address why they fell in. Intervention means stopping someone from falling in the river in the first place.

"Ultimately, the goal is to reduce the need for expensive incident response by addressing underlying issues," Tiffin said.

This would take pressure off of strained

“

We are all proud of where we live, but there are friends and neighbours struggling in our community due to some of the key factors that contribute to poor community safety and well-being.

— Sue Tiffin, CSWB Plan coordinator

emergency services.

As a true community project, once our four priorities in the county were addressed, the advisory table worked to connect with local groups already focused on those issues.

"These could be groups that already exist, whose work plans or a piece of their work plan aligns with our goals and strategies, or it could be a new group developed, but the idea is not to create a new group if a group already exists, as we want to avoid duplication," Tiffin said.

Since the CSWB plan is a living document, the next steps for Tiffin have been to find ways to make the community aware of the plan.

One is an online youth art exhibition in collaboration with Rails End Gallery, Limbic Collective, and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students and will launch on May 31.

"It's an online art exhibition inviting area youth ages 12 to 24 to express their thoughts on Haliburton County's CSWB Plan priorities," she said.

The online exhibition will live on Rails End Gallery's website and be curated by members of the Limbic Art Collective.

The county will also be recognizing First Responders' Day at an open house across the Highlands.

On May 1, "Residents of all ages are invited to visit bases, halls and stations throughout Haliburton County from 4 – 6 p.m. for a variety of activities. Members of the public will be able to meet emergency personnel, learn more about programs and services offered, hear about volunteer and career opportunities, understand how to prepare for emergencies, and get an up-close look at emergency equipment and vehicles."

The tangible next steps were what county councillors were particularly excited about.

To view the full CSWB Plan page, visit www.haliburtoncounty.ca/en/living-here/community-safety-well-being.aspx.

"This is an awful lot like the old adage of 'How do you eat an elephant?' There's so much going on, and this is so large, and I think we just have to look and break it down into all of its components and get the many people who are working on various segments or various parts of these issues to work together and to make this a safer community and a community that has, as you say, improved well-being," said Councillor Bob Carter at the end of Tiffin's presentation. "I guess we just have to roll up our sleeves and get to it."

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Rails End Gallery's new Rewilding show: a must-see experience

JERELYN CRADEN

Special to the Echo

What do you get when you mix a Library of Dresses, celebrating famous deceased female authors with magical paintings of girls, antlers, flowers and a mysterious fairy tale world? Answer: Rewilding, the unique, joyful, and refreshing new show by installation textile artist, Michèle Karch-Ackerman (K-A), and painter, Tanya Zarynski, at the Rails End Gallery in Haliburton, on now until June 30.

Imagine...

A full rack of dresses designed and made by nationally acclaimed installation artist, Karch-Ackerman, depicting the essence of many of the world's most beloved female authors with an accompanying hand-written story (on a hand-painted hang-tag) that brings the experience to life. Plus, walls covered with intriguingly beautiful paintings by Zarynski, whose images inspire one's Inner Child to come out and play, be wild and be free. Hence, Rewilding.

An avid reader of female-authored fiction, K-A said, "I just felt it was time to honour all of the dead female authors. Almost all of them had a difficult life. I thought, I just want to make a Virginia Woolf dress or a Mary Shelley dress, or an Emily Dickinson dress."

K-A and her kindred artist-friend, Zarynski, were tremendous supporters of each other during the time of COVID isolation. When she shared her idea about the author-inspired dresses, Zarynski said, "Do it!"

"So, I did," K-A said. "Each dress has subtle details that honour that author. The one for Emily Dickinson has a fabric that has all these delicate drawings in it – a pot of tea, a cat, a house. And because she rarely left her house, this dress would encompass all the world that she lived in and made her comfortable."

With her Library of Dresses, K-A created her own version of the Dewey Decimal system. "I wanted to honour Sylvia Plath and Zelda Fitzgerald who did paper dolls," K-A said, "so I created a miniature paper image of each dress and then on the ribboned tag that's attached to the dress, a library card has the name of the author on it and some hand written information. Both Tanya and I thought it would be fun to make it like a real library, where you check out the dress and can wear it while you're at the exhibit."

A painter and glass blower, Zarynski first met K-A almost 30 years ago. Then, six years ago, they reconnected and their friendship flowered.

"We realized how much we had in common with our work, our interests, and our understanding of the natural world," Zarynski said. "Especially during COVID, it became a real lifeline for us to have this connection, and have this way for somebody to respond to the work we were making, in the absence of having galleries and all of those regular connections."

"I sent Michèle the first of some pictures of my Rewilding work. I was so excited about it. And very quickly she said, we should have a show together."

This is a Rails End Gallery first show for Zarynski. K-A's first public show was at the Rails End Gallery back when Holly Hutchinson was curator. Since then, she has had ten major shows in the last 30 years.

"Rewilding is the title of the painting I have in the show of myself as a child," Zarynski said. "It's a portrait of myself when I was about ten and I was kind of



Tanya Zarynski poses for a photo with her artwork during the exhibit's opening. /ADAM FRISK
Special to the Echo

thinking especially while we were in the middle of COVID, and I was feeling sort of down and lonely and hadn't seen friends for so long and I was trying to think back to when I felt happy and free and soft of like a wildness." The idea of being free of responsibilities and just being in the moment inspired Zarynski to paint her younger self with antlers.

"Every time I had a show planned during COVID, literally every show for two years was cancelled due to lockdown. Every time I went to teach classes, we were in lockdown again. That's when it became not as essential to make work that was for a show. It was now: what do I feel like painting? I love the tradition of artists painting their friends, especially during the 1800s and early 1900s. So, I started doing portraits of people I was hanging out with, which was a small group because of COVID. "I did a portrait of Michèle as a child and as an artist at 59."

How Zarynski's Rewilding paintings and K-A's Library of Dresses connect.

"They connect in the process of letting go of our regular work," Zarynski said. "The work is pretty deep. The way we use colour is really aligned. I think it's about bodies and the human figure. Michèle's work with the dresses is suggestive of the body even though it's absent, because you've got these clothes. And a lot of my work is about pattern."

Trying on dresses from the library of Dresses

Rails End Gallery curator, Laurie Jones, has taken the Rewilding show to a new experiential level. "Visitors may try on any of the dresses from noon 'til 3 p.m. on days we are open," she said. "A staff member 'librarian' will 'sign out' the dress and return to its spot on the rack when you are done. Dresses must remain on site (includes our deck area). While you 'play dress-up' and admire yourself in our vintage mirror, photos are encouraged, as is reading from one of the author's volumes to get into the spirit. We have a selection of books in the gallery. We ask if social media is being shared that #libraryofdresses and #railsendgallery and #rewilding be used in posts."

Readings at the gallery

Community members are encouraged

to participate in a Reading Series in which volunteer readers read passages from one of the authors whose dress is in the Library of Dresses while wearing their dress from the collection.

These events are posted on the Rails End Gallery calendar. As of this writing, there are four booked, with more to come: Jane Austen, read by Marguerite Easby - May 27; Shirley Jackson, read by Poet

Ever - June 3; Emily Bronte, read by Scott Duggan - June 10; and, Beverley Cleary, read by Laurie Jones - June 17.

All readings will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday to be followed by informal discussion and a refreshment. By Donation.

Contact the gallery at: info@railsend-gallery.com if you wish to do a reading - dates are still available.

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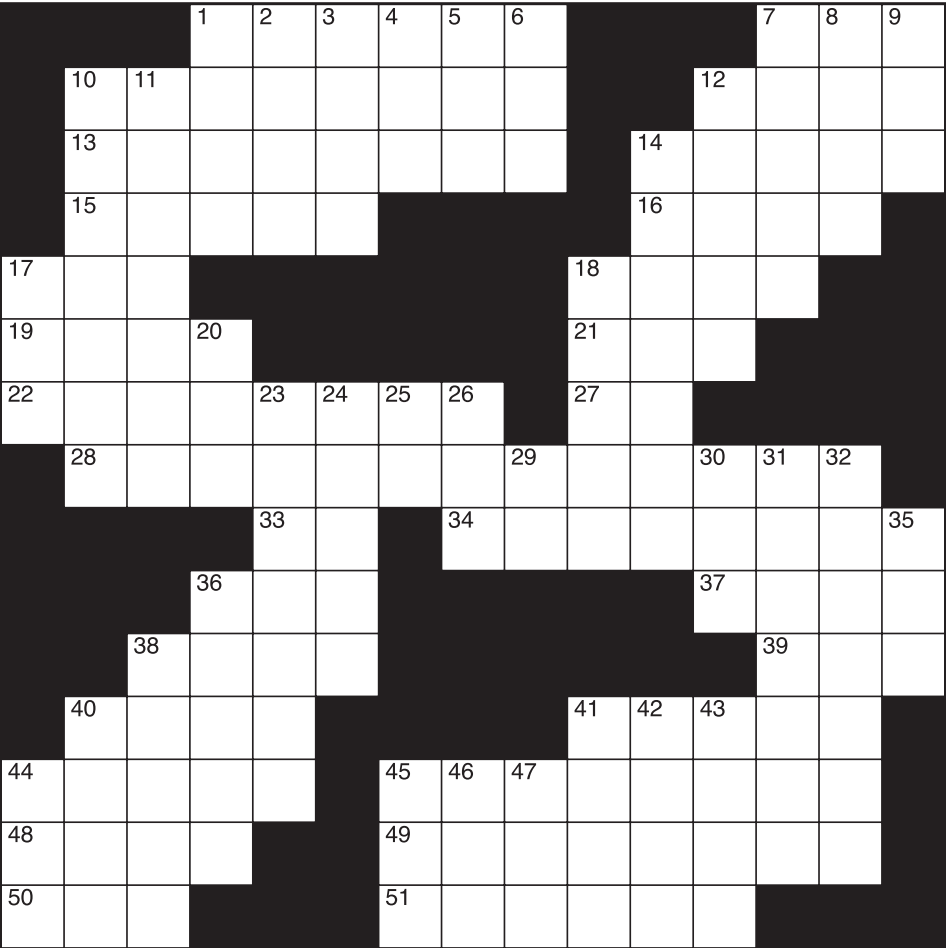
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- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Wear away by friction
 - 7. Insecticide
 - 10. Elicited a secret vote
 - 12. Beef
 - 13. Disagreement
 - 14. __ Crawford, supermodel
 - 15. Jeweled headdress
 - 16. Digits
 - 17. Trillion hertz
 - 18. Snap up
 - 19. Classical portico
 - 21. Residue after burning
 - 22. Large integers
 - 27. Free agent
 - 28. Where ballplayers work
 - 33. Blood type
 - 34. Scottish city
 - 36. Google certification (abbr.)
 - 37. Serbian monetary unit
 - 38. Make a sudden surprise attack on
 - 39. Wood or metal bolt
 - 40. Relaxing attire
 - 41. Famed neurologist
 - 44. Dullish brown fabrics
 - 45. Member of ancient Jewish sect
 - 48. Griffith, Rooney
 - 49. Lawmakers
 - 50. Government lawyers
 - 51. The arch of the foot
- 6. Sun up in New York
 - 7. Cygnus star
 - 8. Male parents
 - 9. Talk to you (abbr.)
 - 10. A place to clean oneself
 - 11. Southwestern US state
 - 12. South Korean idol singer
 - 14. Pirate
 - 17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
 - 18. Mistake
 - 20. Promotions
 - 23. Prepares
 - 24. Partner to flowed
 - 25. State lawyer
 - 26. Patti Hearst's captors
 - 29. Pound
 - 30. Electronic data processing
 - 31. Sports player
 - 32. Treats with contempt
 - 35. Apprehend
 - 36. Excessively talkative
 - 38. Highways
 - 40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
 - 41. College organization for males
 - 42. Any customary observance or practice
 - 43. Employee stock ownership plan
 - 44. Male parent
 - 45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 46. Female bird
 - 47. Autonomic nervous system

- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Nonflowering aquatic plant
 - 2. Britpop rockers
 - 3. National capital
 - 4. Consumed
 - 5. The habitat of wild animals

Answers on page 12



Members of the Haliburton Highlands Long Term Care Coalition gathered in Head Lake Park in Haliburton on Tuesday, April 18 to discuss Ontario Health Coalition's referendum to stop health care privatization. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Ontario Health Coalition to host referendum

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Long Term Care Coalition are printing ballots and putting together voting boxes in preparation for a province-wide Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) referendum to stop health care privatization on Friday, May 26 and Saturday, May 27.

The question on the ballot will read, "Do you want our public hospital services to be privatized to for-profit hospitals and clinics?"

All residents aged 16 or older can vote at one of the 27 locations in the county.

"It's going to be an amazing day. Almost every little town in the county will be represented," said HHLTC Coalition member Bonnie Roe during the launch of the referendum on Tuesday, April 18. "The whole idea is to have a vote to send a message to the Ford government that people want to see an end to privatization of Ontario health care."

A press release from the OHC said the transition from public to private health care is particularly devastating for surgeries. Some hospitals in Ontario have already had to shut down surgical units due to lack of funding and staff.

"Surgeries, MRIs and CTs are core public hospital services ... The loss of these surgeries – and the staff and funding that go with them – would be devastating to all local public hospitals and would gut the services that remain in many of the medium and small hospitals," said the release.

Haliburton Highlands is one of 60 Long Term Care Coalitions in Ontario.

Voting locations will be at various businesses and organizations across the county with volunteers at each station.

"We're really getting the support of the community, so we're really pleased," Roe said. Those interested in volunteering can email Roe: bonnieroe08@gmail.com.

For more information, visit www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/.

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Mark Denny*
457-0473

Haliburton Condominium \$669,000

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- Large Balcony w/ Entertainment Space/Views
- Head Lake (5 Lake Chain), Move-in Ready
- Underground Parking, Close to Walking Trails



Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

Building Lot on Boshkung Lake!

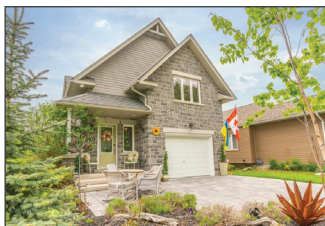
- Southwestern Exposure, 0.65 Acre Lot
- 176ft of Lake Frontage
- Direct Access off Hwy 35
- Views Across the Wide Expanse of Boshkung Lk



Lindsay Elder*
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Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
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West Guilford Lot \$119,900

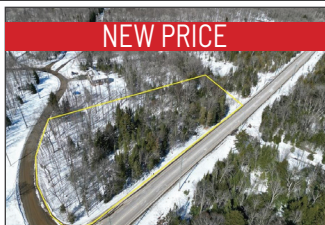
- Lovely 1-acre lot, 5 min drive to West G Store
- Driveway roughed in, 15 Mins to Haliburton
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Oblong Lake \$599,000

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Karen Nimigon**
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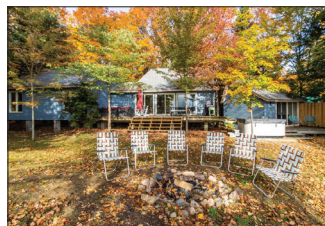
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Melanie Vigrass*
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I Made It!

Destiny Miller displays her glassblowing work following a busy semester at Haliburton School of Art + Design's "I Made It" exhibition at Fleming College on Saturday, April 21. From glassblowing and jewelry making to photography and ceramics, students had the chance to showcase their creations from 10-3 p.m. at the college. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo

New live concert venue coming to town

We are thrilled to announce the Music Room at The Castle, a new 150-seat intimate concert venue, located inside Castle Antiques & Cafe. Get ready for a summer full of exciting live events and an incredible lineup of concerts that will blow your mind!

Stay tuned for more information and be the first to know about our upcoming events. We're bringing the best live music to Haliburton, and we can't wait to share it with you all!

Follow us for updates and get ready to experience the magic of live music like never before. Here we come!

Opening May 6, with a live performance by award-winning singer-songwriter Marshall Dane, Haliburton's new 150-seat Music Room at The Castle will be the place to go this summer and all year long for live music.

Located inside Castle Antiques & Café in the heart of downtown Haliburton, The Music Room is a unique and intimate state-of-the-art venue designed to deliver an immersive and unforgettable live music experience.

"We are thrilled to be opening The Music Room at the Castle. Our goal is to provide a vibrant and dynamic venue for musicians and music lovers to come together and share the love of music in a great sounding and intimate setting. With the support of our community, we look forward to helping to build a successful and long-lasting music scene here in Haliburton."

To kick it all off, The Music Room at the Castle will present an unforgettable evening of live music, featuring the dynamic and soulful songs of award-winning singer-songwriter Marshall Dane, whose new single *Grateful* is currently topping the download and radio charts. Check out his music at www.marshalldane.com and on all streaming platforms.

Opening Night tickets are \$32.00 and are on sale now. Don't miss this opportunity to experience live music at its best!

Tickets are available at Castle Antiques & Café - 223 Highland St. Haliburton 705-457-115 or The Hair Lounge 50 York St. Haliburton 705-455-7745.

Submitted by Music Room at The Castle



Notice
(Applicant - Gubbels)

In the matter of the Municipal Act and in the matter of a proposed By-Law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of Part of the Road Allowance for road along the shore of **Little Glamor Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 9, 2023**, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Road Allowance in front of Lot 2, Concession 14, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 and 2 on Plan 19R-10779 made by **JBF Surveyors, completed July 14, 2022. (Part 2 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).**

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Part of the Shore Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 25th day of April, 2023.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
WILBERFORCE, ON KOL 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
705-448-2981



Notice
(Applicant - McNalley)

In the matter of the Municipal Act and in the matter of a proposed By-Law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance for road along the shore of **Glamor Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 9, 2023**, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 32, Concession 10, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on Plan 19R-10776 made by **Greg Bishop Surveying and Consulting Ltd., completed November 17, 2019.**

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 25th day of April, 2023.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
WILBERFORCE, ON KOL 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
705-448-2981

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WANTED

Historical photos from around
Haliburton County

Preferably from before 1970

Help revive our *Pic of the Past* section by sending
in your pictures. Bring them in to the Echo office
at 146 Highland Street or email them to
vivian@haliburtonpress.com
with dates and any other information.

Forest Festival returns with Women of the Forest

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

It's official. The Forest Festival is back at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve for the 2023 summer season. "This festival is another way of diversifying what the Forest has to offer," said Barrie Martin, the manager of Yours Outdoors and one of the organizers for the event.

The Forest Festival closed its doors in 2019, ending the multi-year tradition of outdoor music at Haliburton Forest. The event was traditionally held at the Bone Like Amphitheatre, which was a large-scale outdoor venue, and faced its fair share of wear and tear over the years due to the elements.

In a media release that was put out in 2019, Haliburton Forest stated: "The Forest Festival needs a stunning facility like Bone Lake to continue, meaning that its future viability without such a facility is very limited. Unfortunately, rebuilding Bone Lake will require great expense and effort, likely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Without a venue, the Forest put a pin in the event in 2019, which then stayed put longer than anticipated with the pandemic hitting the following year.

Now, the Forest is ready to hit the ground running with a new vision, new music, and new venue for the festival. "It won't be the full-blown Forest Festival as we knew it," said Martin, "but we will be bringing it back, and we still want to continue offering this special event at the Forest."

While the Amphitheatre still out of commission, Barrie noted that the festival will be moving to the Logging Museum, which is onsite at the Haliburton Forest Basecamp. The venue can seat up to 200 guests, and has been modified to accom-

modate special events, parties, concerts, and weddings in recent years. "It's a pretty interesting venue," said Martin, who shared that he was excited to see how each performer will fill up the space.

This year, the festival has leaned into a specific theme: Women of the Forest. The lineup features four musical groups composed of women, including Boreal, the Salt Cellars, Jane Bunnett & Maqueque, and Jenie Thai. "We noticed that there was a lot of music happening in the community, and it often seems to be weighted towards male performers," said Martin. "We thought this would be a good way to celebrate women in music, and work with the tremendous pool of talented women musicians."

The first show kicks off on May 20, with one performer presenting each month over the duration of the four-month summer season. Viewers can purchase tickets to the individual shows, or a pass to all four of them.

This is also the first year that the festival has offered the opportunity for local businesses and organizations to get involved as presenting partners. "It's not a donation thing, it's more of an opportunity to engage community partners, and offer them additional presence," said Martin. He shared that some partners this year include Canoe FM, the Folk Society, and Highlands Buckslide Blues Society.

Martin noted that with all the music happening in the county this summer, he hopes the Forest Festival is met with support and interest once again, particularly after the multi-year hiatus. "We are hoping that the legacy of the Forest Festival will help us sell tickets."

For information on all performers and to purchase tickets, visit www.yoursoutdoors.ca or www.haliburtonforest.com. Further information will be available through the Yours Outdoors and Haliburton Forest social media pages over the spring and summer months.



Once, twice, sold!

Camp Medeba hosted a "Not-so-silent" auction Saturday, April 21 in an effort to raise money for the camp. The auction was held both online and in person where people were able to bid on a variety of products and services generously donated by local businesses. / ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo



Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- **DATE:** Wednesday, May 10th, 2023
- **TIME:** 11:00 am.
- **LOCATION:** The Committee of Adjustment will be held as an electronic meeting only.
The meeting will be recorded through the conferencing application and live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2023-005 Chapman
 - The following variances are requested to permit construction an addition to the dwelling located on a lot in the WR4 zone:
 - a) A variance to section 5.2 to permit a dwelling to have a 0.9 metre (3 feet) interior side lot line setback, as opposed to the permitted 4.5 metres (15 ft).
 - b) A variance to section 5.2 to permit a dwelling to have a 5.9 metre (19.5 feet) rear lot line setback, as opposed to the permitted 7.5 metre (25 feet).
 - c) A variance to section 3.30 to permit a dwelling to have a 12.6 metre (41.6 feet) street setback, as opposed to the permitted 17.5 metre (57 feet).
 - Location: Part Lot 32, Concession 4, Lot 37, Plan 483 in the Geographic Township of Guilford, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
2. D13-MV-2023-006 Barrett
 - The following variance is requested to permit construction of a workshop located on a lot in the RU2-4 zone:
 - a) A variance to Section 9.2 to a workshop to have a front lot line setback of 20 metres (66 feet), as opposed to the permitted 30 metres (100 feet).
 - Location: the Part Lot 9, Concession 3 in the Geographic Township of Guilford, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
3. D13-MV-2023-008 Evans
 - The following variance is requested to permit a private cabin to have a decreased interior side lot line setback located on a lot in the WR4 zone:
 - a) A variance to Section 3.1(d)(v) to permit a private cabin to have an interior side lot line setback of 2.25 metres (7.3 feet) as opposed to the permitted 4.5 metres (15 feet).
 - Location: Part Lot 24, Concession 5, Lot 48, Plan 513 in the Geographic Township of Havelock, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Council passed By-law 2020-69 to amends the Committee of Adjustment of the Municipality of Dysart et al's Procedural By-law to permit electronic participation in meetings. **There will not be an in-person meeting; this meeting will be conducted in an electronic format only.**

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Secretary-Treasurer at dvibert@dysartetal.ca .

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions. **A copy of the decision will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.**

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Danielle Vibert
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment



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570 NOTICES

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minister Surinder-Kaur and the private
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Key responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Hire, train and supervise the maintenance staff to ensure that all work is completed to a high standard and in a timely manner.
- Direct the maintenance and repair of camp's facilities, equipment and electrical and mechanical systems
- Coordinate and participate in all cleaning, sweeping, mopping and sanitizing all camp buildings, camp garbage collection and disposal, building/carpentry, repairing, landscaping, and painting.
- Develop and implement schedules and procedures for safety inspections and preventive maintenance programs.
- Conduct routine inspections of camp facilities, equipment, and grounds to identify areas in need of repair or maintenance.
- Coordinate and oversee the repair or replacement of damaged equipment and facilities as necessary.
- Manage the inventory of maintenance supplies and materials, and order new supplies as needed.

Expected Start date: Spring 2023

Previous supervisory experience in maintenance, landscaping, or related field an asset. Candidates will be trained on-site and must enjoy working outside in a team-oriented, collaborative environment. Candidates can expect to work approx 35-45 hours per week. Must be willing to complete all government related certifications, including WHIMS.

Salary: \$40,000-\$65,000, based on experience

To apply, or for more information, please submit resume and application letter to Simon@campnbb.com



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Expected Start date: Immediately

Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment.
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For further information on the Foundation, please visit www.hhhs.ca/foundation

* Position is contingent on Canada Summer Jobs



A Foundation for the Health of the Highlands



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**Housekeeping/Maintenance Staff - Full time - Seasonal or Long term contracts available**

Camp Northland is a residential summer camp located in the beautiful Haliburton Highlands, for children aged 7-16. We are looking to hire candidates to join our Housekeeping/Maintenance team, with opportunities to live on or off-site. For more information about our camp, visit www.campnbb.com

Regular day-to-day work can include, but is not limited to, cleaning, sweeping, mopping and sanitizing all camp buildings, camp garbage collection and disposal, building/carpentry, repairing, landscaping, and painting.

Expected Start date: Spring 2023

Previous experience in maintenance, landscaping, or related field an asset. Candidates will be trained on-site and must enjoy working outside in a team-oriented, collaborative environment. Candidates can expect to work approx 35-40 hours per week. Must be willing to complete all government related certifications, including WHIMS.

Salary: \$15.50-\$19.50 per hour, based on experience

To apply, please submit resume and application letter to Rob@campnbb.com

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



**HALIBURTON COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**The Haliburton County Public Library
Requires
Two (2) Student Maker & Technology Program Assistants**

If you are a student pursuing post-secondary education in the fields of library science, education, or technology, Haliburton County Public Library is looking forward to giving you the opportunity to gain hands-on experience through our Student Maker & Technology Program Assistant position.

Successful candidates will gain experience by planning and carrying out an 8-week summer maker program in a public library environment. Applicants must possess a G driver's licence and be able to work independently as well as in a diverse team. A Vulnerable Sector police check will be required for successful candidates.

The hourly rate of pay for this position is \$20.00, 35 hours per week from May 15th – August 26, 2023.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and instructions on how to apply. Please apply no later than April 28, 2023, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Haliburton County Public Library is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.



**Employment Opportunity
Municipality of Dysart et al**

Two Seasonal Septic Inspectors

The Municipality of Dysart et al is looking for two Septic Inspectors. The successful applicants will be personable and a team player. Primary duties include, but are not limited to, preparing and completing Property inspections including paperwork, educating homeowners on septic maintenance and be proficient in Word and Excel. Previous work experience or relevant education is an asset.

Applicants must be physically fit and able to work independently in all types of site and weather conditions. Must have a valid drivers license and comfortable using smart phone technology. The rate of pay is \$25.00 per hour based on a 40-hour work week. The position is for a maximum of 16 weeks starting May to September 2023.

See the detailed job description on our website www.dysartetal.ca/careers

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter to:

Laura Casey, HR Manager
hr@dysartetal.ca

No Later Than 4:30 pm Friday April 28th, 2023.

**** We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.****



**Night Patrol
Onondaga Camp, Minden
seeks contract (May-June, September)
\$25/hr**

We are looking for a Night Patrol staff to supervise Camp during the evenings. Hours are from 10 pm – 6 am. Onondaga offers Night Patrol to outdoor education groups who require it when they have students on site. A Clean Criminal Record Check is required. Responsibilities include supervision of site through routine patrol, supervision of clients, collection and logging of nightly occurrences, clear communication with staff, faculty, and students. The Night Patrol will identify any issues throughout the evening; immediately notify Onondaga Staff and Faculty to ensure the safety of students, staff and site.

**This is NOT a full time position
Shifts and weekly hours vary
NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED**

To protect the health and safety of our clients and employees, we have modified our normal operating policies in response to COVID-19.

If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at matt@onondagacamp.com. Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)

A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.



**The Royal Canadian Legion
Minden Branch 636**

The Royal Canadian Legion Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden is looking for a Part-Time Cook. A Food Handler Certificate is an asset but not an additional requirement if you take the course later.

Resume may be left at the bar, emailed to rclbranch636@hotmail.com or mailed to:

**The Royal Canadian Legion
PO Box 238, Minden ON, K0M 2K0**



Job Posting

**Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub
Programming and Peer Support
Full time/Contract**

Under the direction of the Youth Wellness Hub Manager and alongside a coordinated service team, the Programming and Peer Support Worker will provide support to youth who access services and recreation at the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub. They will assist with program and activity coordination and facilitation and will support in creating a safe and accepting environment for youth (12-25). They will also have the role of Driver and provide transportation to youth accessing services and wellness activities at the Hub. Services include, but are not limited to, mental health, addictions, employment, housing, primary care and outreach, 2SLGBTQ+ supports and Indigenous peer support. As well as harm reduction supports.

Responsibilities and Qualifications:

Facilitate and support Youth Advisory Committee and Youth Engagement activities; Plan and facilitate activities at the Hub and in the community; Good communication/interpersonal skills; Education or volunteer/work experience in social services or related field; Knowledge of anti-oppression and inclusion including knowledge of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and creating positive spaces is an asset; Knowledge or experience with Canva design program; Strong driving skills and a clean record; First Aid training; Vulnerable Sector Check required; Ability to work evenings and weekends.

For full job description, please visit www.pointintime.ca.

**Please send cover letter and resume by April 28, 2023
to HR@pointintime.ca or drop off/mail to:
Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth & Parents
PO Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0**

Point in Time is committed to building an organization that reflects the communities we work with. We encourage applications from members of Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities, LGBTQ+ communities, people with disabilities, and members of other equity seeking groups. Point in Time will provide accommodation during the recruitment process to ensure equal access to applicants with disabilities, upon the request of the applicant.

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Haliburton Echo
705-457-1037

Classifieds

classifieds@haliburtonpress.com Deadline Friday at 4 pm.

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Summer Reporter/Photographer

The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times are seeking a Summer Reporter/Photographer to join our award-winning newspapers in the heart of Ontario's cottage country.

Responsibilities will include:

- reporting on a variety of news stories, both planned and unexpected
- feature writing
- photography
- searching out story ideas

The successful candidate must have access to their own transportation.

Interested candidates should forward their resume with writing and photography samples to Editors, Vivian Collings or Emily Stonehouse by Friday, May 5, 2023

Vivian Collings vivian@haliburtonpress.com

or

Emily Stonehouse emily@haliburtonpress.com



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650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of
William Elmer (Bill) Obee

passed away on Saturday, April 15, 2023, one day short of his 80th birthday, with his children by his side.

Those who knew Bill recognized he was a great Dad, Granddad, friend, Rotarian, and lover of all things. He lived on Twelve Mile Lake in Carnarvon, after moving from Minden, Unionville, Brantford, and Port Credit to name a few, but there was nowhere on Earth that Bill loved more than his lakefront home, where he and Penny spent many happy years.

Bill married Penny in 1968, after a whirlwind courtship lasting just a few months. They were so proud of their three children, Janna (Kevin), Hunter (Alex), and Meaghan (Robert), as well as 7 wonderful grandchildren, Zachary, Quinn, Aidan, Riley, Kyla, Logan, and Sophie.

Bill's accomplishments were many, but the things he was most proud of were being a University of Waterloo Engineering graduate, nearly 50 years as a member of Rotary International, including years involved with the Youth Exchange Program, Group Study exchanges, and numerous Paul Harris Fellows, volunteer board member at HCDC, Staanworth, Minden Community Food Center, and multiple years on Minden Town Council.

Bill and Penny loved to travel and shared many adventures with their family and friends. Highlights include Mexico, Jamaica, the Caribbean, and Florida with family, Rotary excursions to Cambodia, Aruba, Jamaica, and South Africa, biking in Croatia, Italy, and France, plus fun with friends in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, the Caribbean, and throughout our beautiful Canada.

Friends are invited to join the family to celebrate Bill's life at the Red Umbrella Inn, 1075 Red Umbrella Road, Minden on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 1pm. We'll exchange stories and refreshments from 1-3pm, with a few words from family and close friends 3-4pm. Donations may be made to the Penny and Bill Obee Memorial Scholarship at hssscholarship@gmail.com, or the Minden Community Food Centre and also can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



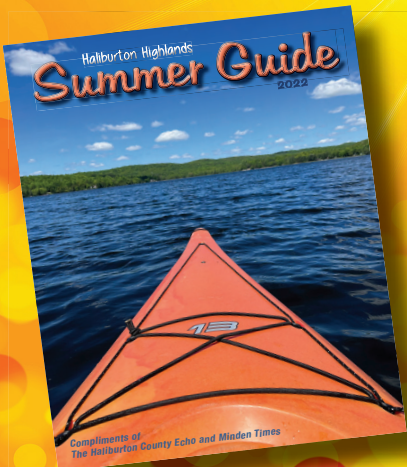
www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

SUMMER GUIDE MAGAZINE IS COMING SOON!

To see your local event listed at no charge in our Summer Guide Magazine, send an email to

HaliburtonSummerGuide@gmail.com

**NO LATER THAN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, AT 3:30PM**



@HaliburtonCountyEcho

INSIDE
THIS WEEK:

KENNISIS HAS A PLAN

Lake plan sets out an ambitious vision for
Kennisis property owners

THE GREEN AWARD

Soyers Lake cottager David Pengelly wins
the GTA's Green Award

LESSON IN ECOTOURISM

Two university professionals from Ukraine
find out how it's done in Haliburton

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2007

THE
ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY

www.haliburtonecho.ca

VOL. 124 NO. 22 \$1.25 INCL. GST

Meth
lab
didn't
pollute
lake:
MOE

MATT JAMES

Staff Reporter

Months after the discovery of one of the biggest meth labs in Ontario, the Ministry of the Environment is confident that the lab did not have an impact on Tamarack Lake's water quality.

However, the ministry is still awaiting the results of soil testing.

Police discovered the meth lab in a rental cottage on the lake south of Gooderham in early winter. They confiscated a large volume of meth and crystal meth but did not know what had been done with the toxic waste that was left over when the highly addictive drugs were made.

John Steele, a media relations officer with the MOE, says that, "all wastes have been removed from the site." As well, the rental property's septic tank was pumped by licensed hazardous waste carrier and disposed of at a licensed facility.

However, because the lake and the ground were frozen when the meth lab was discovered, the ministry could not conduct a comprehensive set of tests until spring.

Of the water tests, Steele says "The ministry is confident that the adjacent surface water body

See MOE page 13



MATT JAMES/ECHO

Going up

Grade 8 student Dwayne Hartshorn from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School flies over the high jump bar at the 13th annual Haliburton Legion Track & Field Meet at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. It was all sun and blue sky as hundreds gathered in support of students from around the area on Saturday. Hartshorn won the Midget boys event clearing a height of 156cm. More photos page 19.

Museum loses, then gets, student grant

LAURA HENDRICK

Staff Reporter

Historical sites throughout Haliburton County have called on the federal government to fix an unexpected staffing crisis.

In the first time in more than a

decade, places like the Haliburton Highlands Museum and the Outpost Historic House Museum were rejected for student funding in the first round of offers from Canada Summer Jobs. Outcry from museum volunteers caught in a similar

pinch across the country prompted an expedited second round of offers. The Outpost has since been offered funding for one student position.

Many of the local museums facing reduced funding are non-

See Funding page 8

Dysart
cracks
down
on
signs

GREG HOEKSTRA

Staff Reporter

Signs, signs, everywhere there are signs... But that could soon change in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

During a recent meeting, Dysart council discussed a draft bylaw to limit and govern the use of signs within the municipality, focusing specifically on Haliburton's downtown core.

One hot-button issue is the use of portable signs, such as sandwich boards, which currently line the sidewalks of Highland Street. Under the draft bylaw, such signs would not be permitted within the village but would be acceptable for use outside town limits.

"The driving range has [a portable sign] every weekend, but you know what, I bet that's the only way that people find it," said Reeve Murray Fearrey.

The bylaw would also prohibit signs that obstruct the view of pedestrians or motorists, flashing signs or signs that contain lights that vary in intensity at lapsed intervals, signs that are mounted on a roof or the face of a building and extend above roof level, and any obsolete signage that advertises a business no longer in business or product no longer available.

Under the new bylaw most new businesses would have to get approval from council before erecting or posting a sign. Council will require applicants

See Sign page 2



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ACRES

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FRONTAGE

2 X
BATH

PRIME
LOCATION

MLS# 40386216

SOYERS LAKE
\$1,995,000



3 X
BED

0.31
ACRES

2743
SQ.FT

3 X
BATH

WESTERN EXPOSURE
SAND SHORELINE

MLS# 40383539

GRASS LAKE
\$1,595,000



3 X
BED

0.45
ACRES

2352.34
SQ.FT

3 X
BATH

120 FT.
FRONTAGE

MLS# 40400244

MOUNTAIN LAKE
\$1,369,999



4 X
BED

330 FEET OF
FRONTAGE

2919
SQ.FT

3 X
BATH

BUNKIE

MLS# 40386211

HUNTER CREEK
\$239,900



2 X
BED

PRIME
LOCATION

YEAR-ROUND
RD.

1 X
BATH

MLS# 40404555

SUNNYSIDE STREET
\$225,000




GREAT
LOCATION

0.408
ACRES

MUNICIPAL
YEAR-ROUND RD.

MLS# 40343482

LAKEVIEW STREET
\$159,900



PRIME
LOCATION

1.47
ACRES

UNDERGROUND
HYDRO

MUNICIPAL
YEAR-ROUND RD.

MLS# 40364799

TOWER ROAD
\$95,000



PRIVATE

2.19
ACRES

OFF-GRID

MLS# 40343517

PARK STREET
\$499,000



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BED

DEEDED
ACCESS TO
WATER

WORKSHOP

2 X
BATH

MLS# 40395553

BRADY LAKE ROAD
\$699,900



3 X
BED

31.03
ACRES

1642
SQ.FT

2 X
BATH

MLS# 40361629

BURNT RIVER
\$238,000



0.531
ACRES

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RIVERFRONT

MUNICIPAL
RD.

HYDRO

MLS# 40386225

WENONA LAKE
\$325,000



2 X
BED

WATERFRONT
ACCESS

800
SQ.FT

1 X
BATH

MLS# 40386229

SKYLINE PARK ROAD
\$299,000



3 X
BED

.675
ACRES

850
SQ.FT

2 X
BATH

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LOCATION

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NORTH DRIVE
\$209,000



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5.56
ACRES

GREAT
LOCATION

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LOTS

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